

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: July 6, 2013

#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #46**

#### **Summer Announcement #42, District 2 and District 3 Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 103,700 Chinook salmon through July 5 is well below the historical average of 130,000 for this date. Based on the assessment information to date, the current projection is for a total run size similar to the poor run of 2012. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 2.3 million fish which is above the median of 1.5 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution.

In District 2 and District 3, reduced subsistence salmon fishing periods with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets are being allowed to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon. Additional commercial fishing opportunity is also being provided in District 2.

**District 3 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing:** District 3 is currently closed to subsistence salmon fishing. Subsistence salmon fishing will be open for one 18-hour period from 2:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, until 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 9, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

As a reminder, in the Innoko River, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

**District 2 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing:** District 2 is currently closed to subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets. In District 2, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for one 12-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 7, until 8:00 a.m., Monday, July 8, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

**District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net:** District 2 will be open for one 12-hour commercial fishing period with beach seine and dip net gear only.

Period #17: 8:00 a.m. Sunday, July 7, until 8:00 p.m. Sunday, July 7

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

**District 2 Commercial Gillnet:** District 2 will be open for one 4-hour commercial fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets.

Period #18: 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 8, until 12:00 midnight Monday, July 8

Commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or retain them for subsistence purposes. The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited and Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen in District 2 and District 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on radio regarding the salmon fishing schedules.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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